

REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 17 and dependent claims 11 and 18 are amended for purposes of expediting prosecution. Claims 2, 3, 4, and 19 are cancelled without prejudice. The rejections presented in the Office Action dated November 27, 2006, have been considered. Claims 1, 5-11, 17-18 and 20-22 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 17 are objected to for lacking a preamble. No amendment is thought to be necessary. However, claims 1 and 17 are amended for purposes of expediting prosecution, and Applicant requests that the objections be withdrawn. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as filed, for instance in Fig. 3 and the corresponding text at paragraphs [0037] and [0038].

Claims 1, 5-11, 17-18 and 20-22 are understood to be novel over U.S. patent 5,946,478 to Lawman ("Lawman") under 35 USC §102(b). The rejection is respectfully traversed because all the limitations are not shown to be taught by Lawman. However, independent claims 1 and 17 are amended and the rejection is moot. Lawman does not appear to suggest altering a second bitstream, without changing its functionality and the functionality of the second bitstream being different from a first bitstream, so that the signature derived from the second bitstream is equal to the signature derived from the first bitstream. The individual bitstreams shown by Lawman would appear to have different signatures.

Claims 5-11 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 17, as discussed above, and include limitations that further refined the limitations of the base claims. Therefore, the limitations of claims 5-11 and 18 are not shown to be taught by Lawman.

As to claim 20, the limitations specify that zero bits are appended to the second bitstream, the extended second bitstream is divided by a generator polynomial to generate an intermediate remainder, the intermediate remainder is added to the first signature to generate a forcing value, and the forcing value is used in altering the second bitstream. It is respectfully submitted that it is not understood how Lawman is interpreted to suggest these limitations. The cited portions of Lawman teach that the configuration data in a bitstream is typically organized into "data frames" which may

include a Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) value for detecting errors in the bitstream (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 38-53). Thus, the specific limitations are not shown to be taught by Lawman and claim 20 is not shown to be anticipated. An explanation of the specific elements of Lawman asserted to correspond to the claim limitations is requested if the rejection is maintained.

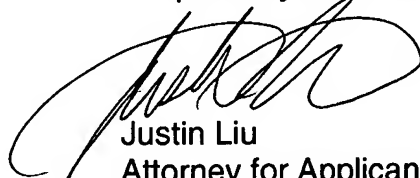
Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 20 and are not shown to be anticipated for at least the reasons set forth above.

Since Lawman is not shown to teach all the claim limitations, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 1, 5-11, 17-18 and 20-22 under §102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the amended claims and Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

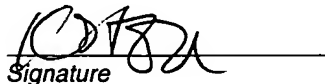
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 9, 2007.

Katherine Stofer
Name


Signature